

REMARKS

Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Pat. No. 5,982,506 to Kara in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,360,254 to Linden. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is noted that in the outstanding office action, the rejection of claim 6 (¶ 9 on page 5 of the action) does not correctly state the subject matter of claim 6. The May 20, 2004, office action also incorrectly stated the subject matter of claim 6.

Claim 4 as now amended to include claim 6 recites that

*said e-mail content certifying device, upon receipt of said access key from said e-mail terminal device at the receiver's side, retrieves from said storage device one set of registration information corresponding to said access key received, and allows downloading by said e-mail terminal device at the receiver's side of said text of content certification contained in said one set of registration information retrieved; and*

*said e-mail content certifying device, after confirming said downloading by said e-mail terminal device at the receiver's side of said text of content certification, sends a delivery certification e-mail to said e-mail terminal device at the sender's side.*

**Kara** discloses a Certification program that, upon verification of an encrypted electronic document, transmits both the encrypted electronic document and a cipher to the recipient site. This is illustrated in Fig. 3B, where the encrypted document is received and checked at steps 3104-3106, and then is transmitted to the recipient at step 3110. At steps 3111-3112, the Certification program checks the transmission by means of a cipher, and, on the basis of the cipher, it certifies transmission to the sending site at step 3119. The cipher is generated by the Send system (col. 7, line 40) and may include payment information (col. 9, line 9).

Later, at col. 10, line 11, Kara refers to “a cipher” sent by the recipient and received by the Certification program. It is not clear if this is the same cipher mentioned earlier or a different cipher.

Kara writes at col. 10, line 12: “After receipt of the cipher, the Certification program analyzes information contained in the cipher to verify that a successful transmission of the encrypted electronic document [to the] recipient (step 3112) [ has occurred] ... Upon determination of a successful transmission [as indicated by the cipher] ... the Certification program generates a certification indicia (step 3115).” Kara discloses that the recipient asserts successful transmission, but there is no indication of how this is done. In particular, there is no disclosure of *downloading* of the encrypted electronic document from the Certification program, as the Applicant claims.

Kara's Certification program cannot confirm whether or not the encrypted electronic document and cipher have really been received at the recipient site. The Certification program generates an indicia of the certification, which is transmitted to the sending site for proof of certified transmission of the electronic document, without such confirmation.

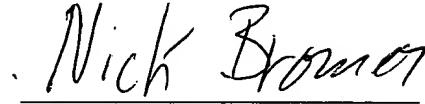
**Linden** does not teach a system in which an e-mail is sent from a sender to a receiver through an e-mail content certifying service; instead, it describes a web shopping system.

The Examiner asserts (page 4, lines 8-10) that Linden discloses downloading text at the receiver's side, but the text cited and applied by the Examiner (col. 7, lines 52-55) discloses sending a “web page” 78 which the Web server 36 “generates.” It does not disclose downloading any text sent to the web site 30, and the word “download” is not seen in the applied text, or elsewhere in the reference. The applied text describes event C of Linden's Fig. 2, and the arrows show that events A and C are transfers from the web to the user; only process B goes the other way, and process B does not transfer any message text, it only sends a “get URL message 76” (col. 7, line 33), which is a request for a “token.”

Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of all claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

  
Nick Bromer, Reg. No. 33,478  
**(717) 426-1664**  
RABIN & BERDO, PC  
Customer No. 23995  
Telephone: 202-371-8976  
Facsimile: 202-408-0924